9

Claim 1 (twice amend d). Spring/mass vibratory force coupl r with variable damping and variable spring stiffness for coupling masses to a reference mass, comprising a first mass coupled to a second mass via a first spring and an independent second spring arranged in parallel, a damper arranged between the second spring and the first mass wherein a damping function of the damper may be varied based on an application of a voltage to an electrorheological or magnetorheological fluid contained therein.

16

Claim 2 (twice amended). Device according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one absorber mass connected to the first mass by means of a first spring/damper element which may be connected to a voltage source.

11

Claim 3 (twice amended). Device according to Claim 2, wherein connection to a voltage source takes place by means of a coupling element based on an electrorheological or magnetorheological fluid.

12

Claim 4 (twice amended). Device according to Claim 2, further comprising at least one auxiliary mass which is connected to the absorber mass by means of a second spring/damper element, which may be connected to a voltage source.

13

Claim 5 (twice amended). Device according to Claim 4, wherein the spring/damper elements are a combination of torsion, coil or gas-pressure springs with dampers based on electrorheological fluids or magnetorheological fluids.

14

Claim 8 (three times amended). A method for modifying mechanical natural vibrations in machines, vehicle running gear or motors selected from the group consisting of balancing machines, machine tools, unbalance generators, testing machines, resonance testing machines, alternate-bending machines, screen conveyors, eccentric presses, crank mechanisms, vibration and resonance drives, vibratory gear mechanisms, internal combustion engines, electric motors and engine mounts which